

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3699

ANSWERED ON:22.12.2015

River Pollution in Hilly Areas

Chandel Kunwar Pushpendra Singh

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of river pollution being caused due to discharging of urban "waste/effluents" in the rivers in hilly areas;

(b) if so, the preventive measures taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the details of the funds allocated for the said purposes during each of the last three years, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) & (b) Discharge of untreated and partially treated sewage from cities/towns constitutes a major source of pollution of rivers in the country, including those in hilly areas. It is the responsibility of the State Governments/ concerned local bodies to set up proper facilities for collection, transportation and treatment of sewage being generated and ensure that untreated sewage does not fall into the rivers thereby polluting them. This Ministry has been supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in abatement of pollution in identified stretches of various rivers under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) and NGRBA (National Ganga River Basin Authority) programmes, on cost sharing basis between the Central and State Governments. Various pollution abatement schemes taken-up under these programmes, inter-alia include interception & diversion of raw sewage, construction of sewerage systems, setting up of sewage treatment plants, low cost sanitation facilities, electric/improved wood crematoria and river front development. The NGRBA programme along with work of Ganga & its tributaries is with Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation from 01/08/2014 onwards. So far under the NRCP & NGRBA programmes, river pollution abatement works amounting to ` 408.39 crore have been sanctioned for the hill States of Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Nagaland, and sewage treatment capacity of 124 million litres per day (mld) has been created.

The Government has in 2014 also initiated an Integrated Ganga Conservation Mission - 'Namami Gange' under the NGRBA programme for consolidating the ongoing efforts & planning for an integrated and comprehensive action plan for rejuvenation of Ganga and its tributaries.

The State Governments, apart from their own budgetary allocation, are also accessing financial assistance for creation of sewerage infrastructure, including sewage treatment plants, in various cities/towns under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) programme of Ministry of Urban Development, and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Gramin) programme of Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation.

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has issued directions under Section 18 1(b) of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 in April, 2015 to all State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees regarding treatment and utilization of sewage generated in their respective States. CPCB has also issued directions to 178 towns under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for proper treatment and disposal of sewage.

(c) The details of funds released to the State Governments of Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Nagaland for implementation of sanctioned works under NRCP/NGRBA programmes during the last three years and current year, State-wise are at Annexure.
